

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00874 100505Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 SAI-01 SAM-01 /094 W

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R 100010Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5250

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SUVA 874

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UR TN

SUBJ: SOVIET/TONGAN RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS EDITORIAL (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) FROM
TONGA CHRONICLE OF AUGUST 5, 1976, RECEIVED SUVA AUGUST 10:

"TONGA AND RUSSIA RELATIONS.

"THE TONGA/RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP CROPS UP AGAIN THIS WEEK
FOLLOWING VISIT OF RUSSIAN DELEGATION LAST WEEK. IT HAS NOW COME
TO NOTICE OF MANY INTERESTED PARTIES THAT SOVIET UNION COULD FIND
TONGA VERY USEFUL GATEWAY TO REST OF PACIFIC.

"ONE INTERESTED PARTY HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO DRAW LINE LINKING
TONGA WITH MANY VITAL POINTS IN PACIFIC, E.G. TAHITI'S NOUMEAN
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND HAWAII, NOT TO MENTION OF COURSE
CLOSER NEIGHBORS FIJI, SAMOAOS AND COOK ISLANDS.

"SPECULATION NOW IS THAT BECAUSE RUSSIA SORELY NEEDS RE-
FUELING BASES FOR HER FISHING FLEET, AND HAVING BEEN REFUSED SUCH
FACILITIES BY NEW ZEALAND, THEY COULD BE BANKING ON SUITABLE

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PAGE 02 SUVA 00874 100505Z

ACCEPTANCE BY TONGA.

"THERE IS OF COURSE SNETHING VERY INTERESTING WHICH I AM SURE HIS MAJESTY MUST BE VERY WELL AWARE OF. IN EVENT OF SOVIETS ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH TONGA, HER INVOLVEMENT IN TONGA WOULD BE FAR BIGGER THAN WHAT WE CAN COPE WITH BOTH IN LOCAL FACILITIES AND MANPOWER. WHAT SOVIETS WILL NEED IN WAY OF TECHNICAL KNOWHOW IN INSTALLMENT OF OIL STORAGE FACILITIES AND SUCH HIGHLY TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS, THEY WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE ON THEIR OWN.

"NO DOUBT WE CAN PROVIDE A BIG PORTION OF UNSKILLED LABOR REQUIRED AND THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN OUTPUT FOR OUR EXCESS LABOR SUPPLY.

"TAKING ALL THIS INTO CONSIDERATION WE COME UP WITH IMPORTANT QUESTION OF HOW DETRIMENTAL, IF AT ALL, WOULD SOVIET PRESENCE IN TONGA BE. I MEAN DETRIMENTAL TO OUR CUSTOMS, BELIEFS, AND TRADITIONS. AND I POSE THESE QUESTIONS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT SOVIETS ARE AS INFLUENTIAL AND CONTAGIOUS IN THEIR DOCTRINES AS WE ARE LED TO BELIEVE.

"AND ON THESE ASSUMPTIONS, HOW IMPORTANT IS TONGA TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND? DO WE CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING WORTHWHILE TO THEM WITH OUR STRATEGIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS? CAN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AFFORD TO LOSE TONGA TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND INFLUENCE? AND FOR THAT MATTER, CAN TONGA AFFORD TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH SOVIET UNION? THESE COULD PROVIDE FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND SOME INTERESTING SPECULATIONS."

HALL

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